Flavelle, Joseph (Sir)

Sept 1917 - Jan 1918

595

September 19th, 1913.

J. W. Flavelle Esq.,

Queen's Park

Toronto

My dear Mr Flavelle:

I think that we should soon have a meeting of the Hospital and University Committees, with regard to Staff appointments, as we must make arrangements for our teaching in the immediate future. In the absence of the Dean I am writing to you directly.

The most important matter is the appointment to the Headship of the Service, recently held by Dr W. L. Caven. As you are aware, Doctors Fotheringham, Rudolf and Thistle are all anxious to secure this position, and they all hold positions on our Staff/ I can recognize that Dr Fotheringham has claims that will weigh with a great many of the Committee, and I should not like to see him passed over entirely. At the same time there is the position of Dr Rudolf to be considered. You are aware that he was made Professor of Therapeutics some years ago without any hospital appointment connected with the position. He has consistently held, and I believe with justice, that he should have a certain number of cases, as Professor of Therapeutics, which he could definitely call his own, and to which he could administer the

treatment that he judges to exemplify his teaching as Professor of Therapeutics. I recognize that there is a difference of opinion as to whether there should be a Professor of Therapeutics in the University, but we have definitely created the position, and we should give our Professor a chance to do the work of the position in the way that he thinks best.

Would it not be possible, now that there is a vacancy, to arrange that both Dr Fotheringham and Dr Rudolf should be connected with that Service, giving Dr Rudolf twenty-five beds for himself, assigning one assistant to both Dr Fotheringham and Dr Rudolf, but making it necessary for that assistant to take instructions as to these twenty-five beds from Dr Rudolf? As far as I can see it would cause no extra expense to the Hospital. The wards, I understand, are large, and it might mean better service in this ward. Dr Fotheringham could be recognized as the Head of the Service, except for these cases, and Dr Rudolf could not complain that he is not able to do the work of his Chair as it ought to be done. It seems to me that it would be easier to do this in the new Service than to ask Dr Chambers to set aside a part of his ward for Dr Rudolf, which he has hitherto, as you are aware, never been willing to do.

When you return from your visit there are one or two other matters which I should like to speak to you about. I have just returned from the North country, and expect to be at the Vault for the first part of next week.

With kind regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

President.

December 1st, 1913

J. M. Flavelle, Esq.,

Chairman, Board of Governors,

Toronto General Hospital.

My dear Mr. Flavelle:

I have just received a communication from the Students' Council asking me to bring before the Board of Governors of the Toronto General Hospital the matter of free hospital and medical attendance for students of the University. They are anxious to know on what terms the Board of Governors of the Hospital would be willing to have two University of Toronto semi-private wards set aside for the use of students. As I shall be unable to be present at the meeting on Wednesday I am sending this letter to you, but I intend also to speak to Dr. Clarke about it.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

December 5th, 1913

J. W. Flavelle, Esq.,

Toronto.

My dear Mr. Flavelle:

It seems to me that the people whom it would be to the advantage of the Hospital to have at the exercises in connection with the opening of the Private Patients' Building would be in the main those whom you invited for the afternoon opening in June. Whether you would want to have the general public in for more than one occasion, and that perhaps an evening, is doubtful to my mind.

If I am correct as to my estimate of the people that you want to get, the next thing to consider would be how to interest them in the new Private Patients' Building. I agree with you that the Lieutenant-Governor should be asked, and that there should be some formal opening, say in the Outpatients' Department. I doubt whether the public that you wish to get would be attracted by a large gathering. Is there no room in the new Private Patients' Building itself which could accommodate a number and in which there could be a formal opening on the part of the Governor, and at which you could make the necessary public statements that would be spread abroad throughout the newspapers ?

I would have after that a certain number of people detailed to conduct parties through the building, and if they so desired to see such other parts as are convenient for you to show them. Possibly you could have refreshments served in some other part of the Hospital, when they leave the building, perhaps the Outpatients' Department.

It might be that after talking the matter over with you I would see it in a different light, but I think we can hardly expect the same general public interest to be evoked by the opening of the new building, as was called forth by the first opening of the Hospital.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

578

THE WILLIAM DAVIES COMPANY,
LIMITED.
TORONTO, CANADA.

December 29, 1913.

R.A. Falconer, Esq., C.M.G., M.A., LL.D.
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto.

My dear President Falconer,

Since the decision some years ago of the Privy Council, that the contract between the Toronto Street Railway Company and the City of Toronto did not provide for the City demanding Street Railway extension outside the limits of the City of Toronto as defined when the contract was made, I have believed the only remedy for the Street Railway situation as it affected the comfort of the working people was that the City should acquire the property by purchase. I believe that if this view prevailed, and negotiations were entered into between the City and the Company, that the final determining factor should not be chiefly one of price, but the opportunity to give service affecting the health and comfort of the great mass of working people who are compelled to use this means of transportation to and from their work.

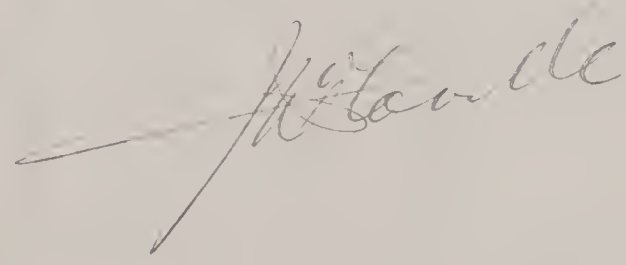
As an employer of labor, I have known the difficulties that workpeople have in the morning in reaching the factory from their homes, and in the evening in reaching their homes from the factory. I do not think many people fully realize what it means for families to be up and about at half-past five each morning to enable a workman to get his breakfast and to reach his work

several miles distant,, nor do they understand that the same workman does not reach home until some time between 7 and 8 o'clock in the evening. This is particularly the case where a man is desirous of having a little place of his own, and has gone into the suburbs where land is cheaper.

It is to be remembered that if the present unfortunate conditions are to be terminated through purchase, and a successful transaction consummated, it will not be because of the technical skill, nor because of the capacity to trade efficiently by the Commissioners, but by the display of that type of good sense and wisdom in the transaction in which the City is a suitor for a favor rather than being in the position of bargaining with a seller on equal terms.

I have ventured to write you as above, because I believe you are eminently qualified to bring to this particular problem the qualities necessary to its solution. Your Commission can procure all the expert advice necessary, but no amount of money will buy wisdom and good sense, both of which qualities you possess in an eminent degree.

Yours very truly,



December 30th, 1913.

J. W. Flavelle Esq., LL. D.,
The William Davies Company
Toronto

Dear Mr Flavelle:

It is very kind of you to write me as you have done, and if I go on the Commission I am sure that the considerations you mention are principles which we must keep in view. I should like to have a talk with you about them when I make up my mind definitely.

So many people have spoken to me in the line of your own advice that I am beginning to get confidence to believe that I ought to undertake the duty. Undoubtedly the service that one may render has the possibility of being very large. I do not shrink from the work involved, so much as hesitate on account of my ability to perform the duty. However, for the sake of the University and the City would put myself in readiness to undertake what seems to be best.

With the compliments of the Season, I am

Yours sincerely,

President

January 16th, 1914

J. N. Flavelle, Esq.,

Toronto General Hospital.

My dear Mr. Flavelle:

I hope to be able to be present at the Toronto General Hospital at three o'clock on February 2nd when his Royal Highness will visit the Hospital. I have been invited to take lunch with him that day at a quarter past one at the York Club, but we shall proceed I assume ~~directly~~ Club directly to the Hospital.

Yours sincerely,

President.